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# KNOX \* NURSERIES,

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U. S. Department of Agriculture.

H. M. SIMPSON CO.

PROPRIETORS,

VINCENNES, = INDIANA.

Knox Co

\*SOME NEW AND RARE FRUITS\*

THAT WE OFFER

FOR FALL OF 1893 AND SPRING OF 1894.

# KNOX NURSERIES,

H. M. SIMPSON CO.

VINCENNES,

INDIANA.

## Some New and Valuable Fruits.

### THE AKIN APPLE.

The Akin or Akin Red was originated in Lawrence County, Illinois, by Wm. Akin. The original tree, though fifty years of age, still bears large crops—the fact that it was originated in the very heart of the great apple district is enough to insure the hardiness of the tree as well as its adaptability to this climate and soil. It is an exceedingly strong and vigorous upright grower, and is the prettiest shaped tree in the nursery.

Fruit shaped like the Wine Sap, but larger: a beautiful, shiny red color, covered with white specks. It has a peculiar flavor of its own, which makes one of the finest eating apples. Crisp and solid, splitting in front of a knife. Its size and beauty of appearance always sells it at the top notch. Its keeping and shipping qualities are unexcelled even by the famous Ben Davis.

A few years ago it took the premium for the best new apple at the Horticultural Society of Illinois, and was pronounced as a very promising winter apple. Since then it has steadily grown in favor and is recommended for planting both for home use and for commercial orchards.

### THE MAMMOTH BLACK TWIG.

The Mammoth Black Twig apple is attracting the attention of fruit growers and dealers wherever it is known. This apple originated in Washington County, Arkansas, and has been tested by many fruit men, and has proven itself to be an apple yet without a rival. There is no other kind of product of the farm which should be selected with more care than that of fruit, for, unlike a plant of corn or wheat which lasts for only a year, a peach or an apple tree, when once planted, endures perhaps for a lifetime. Farmers should therefore look to their best interests in this direction, and plant none but those varieties which possess the most desirable qualities.

R. D. Crawford, of Rhea's Mills, Arkansas, says: "The Mam-

moth Black Twig Apple" has been well tested and proves to be a success. It is a good bearer, good keeper, and out sells any other apple in our market. It took the premium at the World's Exposition, held at New Orleans, Louisiana. The tree is generally hardy and of long life. It stands the cold better than any other trees of which I know. I only lost two in an orchard of forty, in the severe winter of 1880. I would say to all, far or near, to put out largely of this apple."

J. Mateer, Jr., Rhea's Mill, Washington County, Arkansas, says of the "Mammoth Black Twig?" "I have hauled the 'Mammoth Black Twig' apple to Kansas and sold them at \$1.75 a bushel, when their country apples were selling at forty-five cents, and eastern apples at sixty cents. I also know that this apple originated within two miles of my place on the farm of Pleas. Crawford."

J. D. Maberry, of Washington Postoffice, Arkansas, says: "I have helped Mr. Crawford's boys gather and load forty-five bushels of sound 'Mammoth Black Twig' apples at one time from the old original tree."

The Mammoth Black Twig is considered, by many, to be an apple that will rank with the best before many years. It is a very hardy tree: a thrifty grower in the nursery row and an apple that will keep very late. An orchard without the Mammoth Black Twig can't help but be incomplete.

## CHAMPION PEACH.

The Champion Peach is one of the latest additions to the many excellent varieties which are now well known. It is one of the hardiest peaches known, standing weather from sixteen degrees to eighteen degrees below zero, and then bearing a good crop the next year. It has born good crops for the last five seasons—never missing once—and that's the kind of a peach every one wants, one that will bear every year. It is among the earliest to ripen, and is the only early peach that will stand shipping long distances, which is another quality of great value to the commercial orchardist. It was originated on the grounds of Mr. I. G. Hubbard, at Nokomis, Illinois, and has been thoroughly tested by him for a number of years. Another in its favor is that it was originated in Northern Illinois, and is, therefore, adopted to this climate. It ripens at its place of origin, Nokomis, Illinois, about the 6th of August. The following are a few of its strong points:

### POINTS OF SUPERIORITY.

1. Hardiness.
2. Productiveness.
3. It ripens early.
4. It is one of the largest early peaches.
5. It is the highest flavored of the early peaches.
6. It is the best shipper of the early peaches.
7. It is a perfect freestone—a rare thing among early peaches.

Read the testimonial of the President of the Ohio State Horticultural Society on the Champion—product of 1892:

"I received the Champion Peach from Mr. Hubbard in perfect condition. I do not think it has been overrated, and was much pleased with both its appearance and quality. It is by far the best peach I have seen or tasted this year.

Very truly yours, "GEO. W. CAMPBELL, Delaware, Ohio."

Also the following testimonials from prominent nurserymen and fruit growers:

"The specimen of Champion Peach came while my father was away from home. We found it of good quality, and it is certainly a strong point in its favor to bear at all such a season as this."—E. S. Earle, Cobden, Illinois.

"The sample of the Champion Peach come in O. K. We were much pleased with its appearance, size and quality. We consider it very fine, and the only thing in peaches we have seen this year that was really a specimen of peach."—J. B. Spaulding & Sons, Springfield, Illinois.

"Specimens of your Champion Peach came in good condition, and I must say I have seen no finer, larger, or better specimens in Europe or America. It is remarkable for an early peach in all respects."—Prof. J. L. Budd, Iowa Agricultural College, Ames, Iowa.

"We think so highly of this peach that we have had a section engraved, which we present herewith.—Prairie Farmer, August 16th, 1890.

"A first class peach in every respect, and fully agrees with the account of it in the Prairie Farmer of the 16th.—W. F. Heikes, Manager, Huntsville, Alabama.

## ELBERTA PEACH.

(Missouri Horticultural Society, 1892.

Mr. J. E. Kreybill, of Howell County, Missouri, sold the past season from six acres of Elberta Peach trees planted in the spring of 1889, \$1,800 worth of fruit. These peaches were extra fine and sold for \$6 per bushel. Mr. J. C. Evans, president of the society, confirmed this peach story.

Mr. Kreybill is trying to grow the finest possible fruit. He cultivates constantly, fertilizes with wood ashes, prunes and cuts back the previous season's growth annually. He says the Elberta is the best peach he has ever seen in any state or country.

H. E. Van Deman, U. S. Pomologist, in report for 1891, says of the Elberta: "Above medium size; oval, rich lemon yellow, with enough blush to make it showy and of most excellent flavor. Bear, well and ships well and shipe well. Altogether no peach before the public has more good points, and scarcely any other is so thoroughly reliable in almost every way."

## PEARS.

In a climate where peaches are uncertain we are compelled to turn our attention to other fruits which will stand our severe win-

ters without damage, or our principal dependence both for home use and market. This fact is being impressed on the minds of the people more and more every year, especially throughout central Indiana and central Illinois.

In view of this fact many are turning their attention to the pear which very rarely fails to produce a crop notwithstanding a cold winter.

Among the many varieties of pears (and there are over 5,000 varieties,) the Keiffer leads the list. It is noted for its vigorous growth, hardiness, large size and productiveness, the extreme youth at which it bears, (often bearing in the nursery row,) more than this it has unexcelled keeping and shipping qualities; as a cooking and canning year it has no equal, and is very good eating; all these qualities combined with its BEAUTY make it a pear that always commands the highest market price.

Last year J. H. Robinson, of Putnam County, Indiana, had about fifty bushels of Keiffer pears. He sold them at \$1.00 per bushel from the orchard, and they brought \$1.50 or more in the market. The people came in for twenty miles around and continued to come long after they were all gone.

The Keiffer pear stands head. Will bear as early as a peach tree; is a good grower; has not shown the least signs of blight; nothing feeds on the leaves but they remain green and fresh throughout the season. Some of the pears were left on the trees till 12th of November, during which time they were frozen solid, yet when thawed out the flesh was perfect, the juice sweeter and flavor improved; should not be gathered till it turns yellow on the tree, when it should be laid away till mellow. Properly treated it is the equal of anything I have ever eaten; is a No. 1 shipper.

Respectfully, J. H. ROBINSON, M. D.

At the New Jersey Horticultural Society Mr. Denise says: "The Keiffer is the most vigorous growing in the pear line and most productive; fruit evenly distributed over the tree and when placed on the market customers run after him and sought the Keiffer. Its beauty sells it. He has 1,600 trees. Those 10 years from bud were as large as Bartlett 25 years old. Fruit hangs on well and is not liable to be blown off, and is good to handle because hard when ready to pick. Nine hundred and forty trees 8 and 9 years old produced last year 791 barrels. One hundred trees produced 191 barrels. These figures taken from his books. Now, if he were to plant more with his experience he would plant 999 Keiffer and 1 Bartlett in an orchard of 10,000 trees."—Coleman's Rural World, October 27, 1892.

B. A. Mathews, of Iowa, writes in the Homestead as follows:

"MR. EDITOR—I send you to-day some specimens of the Keiffer Pears, a variety we have been raising for the past 14 years. An early bearer and good market variety. It is most desirable for spicing and canning. Nothing outsells it on the market. One afternoon last October a hand sold 60 bushels on the street at this place—gives entire satisfaction for culinary purposes—has shown no perfect of leaf, thus doing away with the necessity of spraying to re-

tain foliage. Some of my Keiffer kept last season until April. A number of buyers set their aside till January or February before canning.

"Thorough thinning out of fruit should not be neglected as this variety will frequently overbear to such an extent as to work great injury to the tree."

[It might seem like an extravagant statement for Mr. Mathews to make that his hand sold 60 bushels of this pear on the streets in one afternoon. It was with difficulty the writer got his basket of pears home from the express office. There were 26 in the basket, and their average weight was near  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound—one specimen weighing  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a pound—measuring 12 inches in circumference one way, by 11 inches the other. Were a rich yellow in color and larger and more attractive in the basket, than any coming from California.—ED.]—Coleman's Rural World, Dec. 15, 1892.

Again, October 20, 1892, we find in Coleman's Rural World the following from the venerable Horticultural editor, Samuel Miller:

"The Keiffer Pear.—A friend recently wrote me and said I might consider him cranky on this pear, but justified himself by what he saw in Illinois.

"If he is cranky on this subject there are many more like himself among them. I have but three trees, yet got more fruit off them this year than all of the others combined.

"Had I planted all Keiffer when it first came out, instead of a variety, they would now be a source of chnsiderable revenue. Were I ten years younger I would not hesitate to plant ten acres of them."

Again in the same paper of November 10, 1892, we find the following by Charles Tuebner, of Missouri: "Keiffer commenced to bear at 3 years from planting; at 4 years some produced  $1\frac{1}{2}$  bushels, and at 5 years,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  and 3 bushels each. One in my yard, planted 5 years ago, is now over 18 feet high and  $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches in circumference  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet above ground, though only a one year switch when planted. It bore 325 pears, 50 or 60 of which filled a one-half bushel measure. J. A. J. Shultz had, on his farm near Lexington, 50 bushels from 13 trees 7 to 10 years old, which sold here for \$2.50 per bushel. In quality they have been pronounced by all whom I gave specimens, to be excellent. To secure good quality, the fruit should be gathered and stored in cellar to ripen, when it turns a beautiful yellow and is very full of juice, and lasts several week."

Mr. E. W. Wilkinson, of Princeton, Indiana, has an orchard of 1000 Keiffer pear which was three years planted last year; at which time it bore 100 bushels of fine pears, for which he received \$2.00 per bushel. These trees all came from KNOX NURSERIES; we might also add that our sales of Keiffer pear, in Gibson County alone, amounted to 9,000 trees in the past year.

Mr. Blue, near Indianapolis, has planted 3,000 Keiffer pear trees in his orchards. This year some of the older trees bore very full and he had 600 bushels which brought him over \$1,200, averaging over \$2.00 per bushel.

Mr. Riebolt, of same county, has 60 trees which occupy less than one-half acre of ground. This year he sold the fruit from these

trees for over \$300, or more than \$5.00 per tree, a good portion of the fruit bringing him \$2.50 per bushel. He intends planting 600 more pear trees, a large portion of which will be Keiffer.

Mr. Wilson, of Hamilton County, had over 100 bushels of Keiffer pears this year, which he sold for over \$2.00 per bushel. Last fall he planted 1,000 Keiffer and Garber pear trees.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT }  
STATION, BULLETIN NO. 18, January, 1892. }

The Keiffer pear—Fruit above medium in size; skin, deep yellow, reddish orange in sun; flesh, white, a little coarse, juicy, sweet, with a delightful flavor. Fruit began to ripen in October and continued to hold until middle of November. When ripe it emits a delicious aroma. Trees planted in 1886 bore first fruit in 1888, and in 1891 the yield of one tree was one and one-half bushels. Fruit was picked October 16th, looking somewhat green, and placed in a moderate cellar where it turned to a beautiful yellow in four days. About ten days later, when the pears became soft, they were canned and proved to be worthy rivals of Bartlett. Keiffer ripening late must continue to grow in favor. Was untouched by severe frost May 8th, 1890, when the young growths on many others were injured.

A large number of others could be referred to who have found the Keiffer to be the most profitable fruit they can grow, and in fact the most profitable crop of any kind, and are increasing their orchards as fast as possible. Keiffer pears can be grown cheaper than apples and they are more productive, healthier, more vigorous and bear earlier. Yet they have been selling in the market for more than Florida oranges.

Those who plant largely first will be the ones to reap the largest benefits, while all who plant and care for their trees will get better returns than from anything else that can be grown on the same ground and with the same work. Will you be one of those to secure the first and largest returns?

## THE GARBER PEAR.

Next to the Keiffer in hardiness, vigor of growth, exemption from blight and productiveness, stands the Garber, a wonder to all who see it. This pear belongs to the same class as the Keiffer, but has its fruit distributed more uniformly along the big branches, but like the Keiffer should be headed back every year. The fruit is very large and flattened at each end. It should be picked green and ripen in the cellar or some dark closet, when it becomes a rich, golden yellow, with a red cheek at times, and is of fair quality. It is a good shipper. It resembles both the apple and pear in texture of flesh and flavor. Where known it is being extensively planted, but at present the stock is limited. We have a few bearing trees in the nursery and they have proved to be all that is claimed for them,

## PLUMS.

Without doubt plums are now receiving more attention from fruit growers and fruit lovers. Among the new varieties of plums none are receiving so much attention as the Burbank. Every one who has fruited it speaks of it in the highest terms, and from all indications we predict it will be the leader in the near future.

### Report of Pomologist of United States.

#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Burbank Plum.—(Luther Burbank, California, and S. D. Willard, New York). Color dark red or purplish, with yellow under color; skin of medium thickness, tender, peeling easily from fully ripened specimens; flesh amber yellow, melting, juicy; flavor rich, sugary, resembling other Japanese plums; quality best. Imported from Japan in 1885 by Mr. Burbank, and named by United States pomologist in honor of Mr. Burbank. Fruit carries remarkably well, and tree appears to be hardy, at least as far north as Geneva, N. Y., where it has fruited this year, and deserves extensive trial, as parties who have tested it are contemplating planting it largely for market.

## KNIGHT'S IMPROVED Currant.

An improvement on the old Knight's Sweet Red grown near Indianapolis, where it has been fruiting for the past fifteen years; but as little attention was given to the cultivation of currants till the last few years, no particular notice was taken of it. Yet its continued production of such immense crops of fine fruit finally attracted the attention of one of our leading fruit-growers, who commenced propagating his own plants and planting it some years ago, till now he has ten acres of them in bearing, and has supplied plants to his neighbors, who have planted ten acres more.

This year Mr. Blue sold over, 1,000 bushels of Knight's Improved currants from his ten acres, realizing \$3,400 for them, or at the rate of \$340 per acre from the currants alone. While on the same ground he has an orchard of Keiffer pear trees just coming into bearing, yet they do not interfere with the productiveness of the currants. He also has in bearing Fay's Prolific, Victoria, Cherry, Red Dutch, etc., yet he has found all of these much less productive and profitable than Knight's Improved, and will this season dig them all up and discard them, replanting the same ground with Knight's Improved.

Of the ten acres which yielded this year more than 1,000 bushels, over half of the plants have planted but two years, and when planted were but one year old, yet all were loaded down with fruit, while the oldest plants which had been set for fifteen years, are still healthy and vigorous and as heavily laden with fruit as any.

They are vigorous growers, yet the foliage is light and when loaded with fruit present as beautiful a sight as one often sees, the

immense crop almost hiding the foliage and being exceedingly easy to pick, costing but one cent per pound, or five cents per gallon to pick, yet pickers make from \$1 to \$2.50 per day.

Rows forty rods long yielded ten bushels of fruit to the row, selling for \$2.50 to \$3 per bushel.

Mr. Blue advises planting 1,800 plants to the acre. The above results have been obtained by ordinary field culture and can be realized equally as well elsewhere.

Only a limited quantity of plants can be furnished this season, orders for which will be booked and filled as received as long as stock last.

Fifteen hundred currant bushes may be planted upon an acre. With good cultivation each plant should produce four quarts of fruit, which will sell in most markets at from ten to fifteen cents a quart. On proper conditions very few fruits are more profitable. They need a deep, well cultivated soil, with plenty of moisture. The old wood should be pruned and cut away every autumn. The ground should be cultivated in the spring and then covered with a deep mulch, to keep the roots cool and moist through the summer. Then keep the worms away, and you are pretty sure of good fruit.—Western Rural.

Most fruits must be gathered as soon as ripe. Not so with currants; they will hang on the bushes two to three weeks after ripening, thus giving a chance to market them at grower's pleasure, avoiding gluts and low prices as well as loss or damage to fruit by rainy, bad days.

### **HYDRANGEA PANICULATA GRANDIFLORA.**

One of the most beautiful sights we have ever seen was a plantation of young *Hydrangea Paniculata Grandiflora*. There were about a dozen rows, each perhaps 30 rods in length and every bush was laded with its beautiful blossoms—great masses of white, slowly turning to a copperish pink and bending down under their weight. One can hardly imagine the attractiveness of this great mass of flowers, nor how intensely it appealed to the taste of a lover of flowers, fresh from the city streets. It was so beautiful that we have had it reproduced from a photograph.—Rural New Yorker.

The *Hydrangea Paniculata Grandiflora* is a perfectly hardy shrub, vigorous in its growth, commences blooming the same year it is planted, giving a wealth of flowers, beautiful to behold, in August and September. All things considered, it is the most desirable and beautiful of our hardy shrubs and should be in every yard.

### **PLANT YOUNG TREES.**

We cannot too strongly recommend to our customers the procuring of our trees, especially for orchard planting, instead of selecting the largest that can be had, to secure more immediate effect. They can be taken up with more perfect roots, and will become sooner established in a new location. They can also be more readily trained to any desired shape. The largest and most successful

planters invariable select young, thrifty trees as the surest in the end to give thorough satisfaction.

Southern Indiana and Illinois are destined to become the great fruit producing belt of the United States, and each year brings this matter more forcibly to our minds from the fact that the fruit dealers of New York and other localities send out agents for the purchase of their fruits. Our climate appears to give the fruit a better color and our soil produces a firmer and a better keeper than most any other locality in the State.

Trees are no exception to any other commercial product; it costs more to bring anything, either manufactured or grown, to the highest point of excellence; it being in the end cheaper to the consumer.

We do not desire to sell stock in any location and then pass out of existence, to be known no more to the customer, nor do we offer trees at such prices, knowing we cannot fulfill our obligations for honesty and fair dealings. Our object is to hold the trade by satisfying the public, always standing ready and willing to do by them as if they lived in our own town. There is no doubt that many have been badly swindled by unscrupulous dealers, advertising low (and furnishing poor stock) as an inducement to buy, but we are pleased to say the majority of nurserymen are not of this class, but the thirst after cheap stock has much to do with the disappointment of the public.

If you are going to plant, it is your duty to find out all you can in regard to your stock, and from whom you buy. Do not be deceived in the belief that you can buy first class stock, selected, true to name for less than it can be grown. An inferior lot of trees are dear at any price. It will prove greatly to the advantage of fruit growers and planters to plant our well tested and carefully grown fruit and other trees in preference to the imported stock offered so largely by dealers.

#### WHAT SENATOR CULLOM SAW AND LEARNED IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

[Special dispatch to the Gibe-Democrat.]

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., October 12.—Senator Cullom, returning from a jaunt through the southern counties of this state, talks most enthusiastically about what he saw. He says:

"I do not believe the people of Southern Illinois were ever before in such a prosperous condition as they are now. Their wheat, corn, oats, potatoes—in fact, all sorts of crops—have produced abundantly. In small fruits there has been an ample yield, but the apple crop beats everything I ever saw. I believe a large portion of the Southern Illinois counties have the best lands in the world for the production of this fruit. The owners of apple orchards are having a rich time of it. At one station I saw large rail pens like those we used to see filled with corn, and these were piled full of apples, to be barreled and shipped east. At Xenia, in Clay county, one man, a Mr. Bridges, has an apple orchard of twenty acres. He sold the crop out in a lump to a dealer for \$180 an acre. Another

man, whose name I forgot, has twelve-acre orchard. He sold the crop out in toto for \$2,250, the purchaser to pick it and haul it away. Eastern buyers are scattered all through the southern counties, buying up, packing and shipping apples east, and these men say the New Jersey and Delaware apple regions are not nearly equal to Southern Illinois for producing this fruit. I was told that the farmers of Clay county, usually called one of the poorest counties in the state, will realize \$250,000 out of their apple crop this year. A man with fifty good trees will take in from \$300 to \$500, and so it goes. Wherever there are apple trees they are hanging full of fruit, and all the people seem to be having a harvest. There is nothing the matter with Southern Illinois."

The boom is on us; let us take no steps backward! The All-wise has brought us to it by the chinch-bug pest. We find our soil more adapted to the raising of fruit than any other crop, while other localities find their soil more adapted to the raising of grain and stock, and have practically abandoned the idea of raising fruit and depend solely on other localities for their fruit. It has been but few years that not more than a car load or two of fruit could find a market in the Northwest; but now it goes by train load after train load, continuing to a great extent through all the fall season, and always finds a ready market at a more renumerative price than any other crop than can be raised in this locality.

The idea of an over production of good fruits does not bother the minds of men posted in the progress of the fruit industry, the yearly increased demands, even for home production, let alone the great export demand. The exports of fruit for the last four years will nearly or quite equal the wheat exports. The increased facilities for shipping by railroad and water are so great every bushel of fruit can be marketed at very small expense. Canning factories, dry houses, jelly houses, distilleries and cold storage houses will spring up in every town and village, and the increased production of fruits will bring buyers from a distance and bring about a competition in the shipment of fruits that we cannot have otherwise, consequently giving us a better price for our fruits, as well as giving employment to the hundreds of hands now idle, and will make this a great country.

The stone which the builders refused in the building of this country, will become the head of the corner. Parties owning land in this country will find people are not coming here to raise hogs and hominy against other localities adapted to it, but will find them looking for fruit and fruit farms, and the man that has taken time by the forelock will be the lucky man and get a good price for his land if he should desire to sell it. We can build houses, barns, fences, dig wells and make most anything "in a day;" but if we have fruit we must grow it. We cannot sell time and no one can buy it, else the rich would never die.

PRICES ON ALL STOCK FURNISHED ON APPLICATION. Special prices on large lots.

## APPLE.

We wish to call SPECIAL ATTENTION to our large stock of **APPLE**. For Fall shipment we will have **500,000** two year old apple; 4 to 6 ft. in addition to which we have **500,000** one year old making a total of **1,000,000** **APPLE** now growing in KNOX NURSERIES.

 Give us a trial order.

Address.

**H. M. SIMPSON CO.**

**VINCENNES, INDIANA.**

One mile east of street railway terminus.

